

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed June 18, 2007, the Examiner's claim rejections have been considered. Claims 4-6 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 7-20 have been added. Support for new claims 7-20 is found, at a minimum, at pages 29-30, 53-55, and 79-83. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections regarding all pending claims and earnestly solicit allowance of these claims.

1. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 6 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 4 and 6 have been canceled thereby rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the § 112 rejection to claims 4 and 6 be withdrawn.

2. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoseloff (U.S. Patent No. 6,398,645). Claims 4-6 have been canceled thereby rendering rejection moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Yoseloff does not render the claimed invention obvious because Yoseloff does not disclose that the bingo game that “presents a bonus win event as a non-bingo game result.” That is, for example, the bonus win event may be shown as a particular outcome of a five-reel video slot machine or a poker game. For a multi-reel game, a winning bingo result is shown as a winning combination of reel symbols whereas a losing bingo result is shown as non-winning combination of reel symbols. For example, five numbers daubed in a row on a bingo card is presented as cherry-cherry-cherry on a three-reel slots game. Accordingly, while the player is playing a bingo game, the game display presents the bingo game results as a non-bingo game of chance such as, but not limited to, poker or a slots-style game.

In sharp contrast, Yoseloff merely discloses an electronic version of a bingo game. Yoseloff discloses that balls are drawn and the players that achieve various combinations on the bingo card (as illustrated in FIG. 3) win various payouts according to the difficulty of achieving a particular outcome. Yoseloff does not teach that the bingo game outcome is mapped to an outcome of a non-bingo game.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that Yoseloff does not disclose the claimed invention and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

3. New Claims 7-20

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 7-20 are allowable over the cited reference because the cited reference does not disclose “displaying a non-bingo winning game outcome to the player in response to a winning bingo game outcome occurring at a bingo player terminal” as recited in claim 8, “awarding one or more progressive prizes for any winning outcomes in the bonus game, wherein the progressive prize is a prorated progressive jackpot amount that is dependent upon the wager of the player” as recited in claim 14, or “initiating a bonus game on the two or more bingo game terminals if a predetermined minimum number of bingo balls remain in the ordered ball draw” as recited in claim 17. Moreover, claims 7, 9-13, 15-16, and 18-20 which depend from claims 1, 8, 14, and 17 are also allowable for at least the reasons set forth in this paper as these claims depend directly from their respective independent claims. Nevertheless, the dependent claims include additional features that, in combination with those of the independent claims, provide further, separate and independent bases for patentability.

CONCLUSION


Applicants have made an earnest and *bona fide* effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all of claims 1-3 and 7-20 is believed to be in order, and a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fees indicated in the Fee Transmittal, any additional fee(s) or underpayment of fee(s) under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 194293, Deposit Account Name STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 734-3200. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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